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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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- The initial reaction of the Yugoslav public to the Cominform reproof of Tito was one of elation; the Communists were stunned by the announcement but soon the leadership decided upon the line the Party would officially follow. This pro-Tito line accounts for the support of ninety percent of the Yugoslav Communist Party. The oppositionist ten percent is composed mostly of students. Certain quarters believe that more support for the Cominform inside Yugoslavia would have been forthcoming had the reproof been combined with "an effective act".
 - The Yugoslav people support Tito in this rift between Yugoslavia and the Cominform; the populace believe that despite the fact that there has been no abatement in its ruthlessness, conditions would be worse under the Moscow faction of the Communists. The regime, meanwhile, strives to appease Stalin. In the event of war between the Soviet Union and the West, Tito would fight with the Russians; it is questionable, however, how useful the Yugoslavs would be since in a conflict Tito's army "would break to pieces".
 - If the split with the Cominform (and Moscow) should widen and an internal struggle develops between Yugoslav Communist factions, the regime would collapse. Even today, the Communists could be liquidated overnight throughout the country except in Belgrade, Zagreb and "two or three" other cities where their forces are concentrated. Already individual Communist leaders in the provinces are showing a "certain amount of softness" and are making contacts with non-Communists. There is no important movement to overthrow the regime at present because the people have been misled too frequently in the past and are carefully examining the current of events before organizing resistance.
 - Communist reforms have been carried out most drastically in Serbia, since the Serbs are considered the important antagonists. In Bosnia the emphasis is on Moslem leadership and even though a Serb is the president of the Bosnian government, the territory is administered with a view to favor the Moslems. A considerable number of refugees from Bosnia and Croatia who escaped to Nedic's Serbia refuse to return home because of their belief that in the event of an uprising, they would again be persecuted by the Croats and Moslems united against the Serbs.
 - The Serbs do not oppose the idea of a united Yugoslavia, but they wish the Croats would be included in any loose federation. The Croats, on the

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other hand, accuse Belgrade (the Serbs) of being responsible for the Communists. The Croats are, however, more enthusiastic for the re-establishment of another Serbo-Croatian nation.

6. The popularity of King Peter still is adversely affected by the fact that he married while his country was at war; still more serious is the King's speech of 12 September 1944 in which he appealed for the Chetniks to join Tito's Partisans. Should the King come to Yugoslavia at the moment of upheaval, he would be received just as any other person connected with the upheaval would be. It is questionable, however, if Peter would be in a position to remain as King. The aversion to the monarchical form of government on the part of the Yugoslav people has been strengthened by their suffering, Peter's behavior during the war, and partially by Communist anti-Royalist propaganda. Much of the sympathy for the Karageorgevic dynasty has deteriorated in recent years; conversely, the Yugoslav public has been "completely cured of a once prominent Russophilism".
7. Misa Trifunovic has been released from prison; he seems fairly well. Milan Grol has aged terribly since 1945. Radenko Stankovic and Ivo Perovic (who were representatives for the regency) and Milan Antic, Minister of the Royal Court are imprisoned. Srdjan Budisavljevic is disliked by the Yugoslav public because of his cooperation with the Partisans during the time he was a member of the regency. Vlada Simic and Steva Jakovljevic have lost their former reputations with the Yugoslav public.
8. The Communist influence on school children is insignificant because the home and local social environment make a deeper impression on the youth.

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